

Implementation

INTRODUCTION

The department has the responsibility to implement fully the Forest Resource Plan and ensure that the policies described in this document are followed by its employees. To meet its obligations, the department intends to develop clear procedures and guidelines to execute the policies in the plan. The plan represents a commitment by the department to engage in ongoing activities and revisions, a process that is necessary as the department responds to changing conditions.

IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

No. 35: Public Involvement

- ▼ The department will solicit comment from the public, tribes and government agencies when implementing the Forest Resource Plan and when revising policies contained in the document.

Discussion

The department intends to review carefully suggestions and comments received from the public. It may incorporate these ideas in future activities, projects, plans, programs, procedures or guidelines. The department's final decision will reflect the legal mandates of the trusts and its responsibilities to the public.

The department's tribal policy (Appendix F) commits the department to meet with respective tribal counterparts to discuss issues of mutual concern.

No. 36: Implementing the Forest Resource Plan

- ▼ The department will attempt, within budget constraints, to meet the key elements in each of the policies described in this Plan.

Discussion

The department recognizes that timely implementation of the Forest Resource Plan is critical to the public and the department's own employees.

The department will seek to implement the entire plan immediately but such an action requires available funding.

Although the department will make every effort to secure adequate funding, the final decision rests with the state legislature. As a result, budget constraints may prevent the department from immediately implementing all aspects of all policies in the plan. The department will therefore identify the key elements of each policy to implement first and may delay other elements until funding becomes available.

No matter what the level of funding, the department will work for creative solutions to implement the plan efficiently. In so doing, the department will fulfil its legal duties as a trustee, and it will also meet or exceed the requirements of the Forest Practices Act.

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No. 37: Monitoring the Forest Resource Plan

- ▼ **The department will monitor the Forest Resource Plan's implementation to determine whether its policies are being executed efficiently and to measure the success of the plan in meeting its objectives.**

Discussion

The department intends to track closely the implementation of the plan and how it is put into practice in the field. As part of this process, the department will assess employees' understanding of the plan and will identify additional training and education needs. This process will provide the department and the Board of Natural Resources with the ability to revise portions of the plan to respond to dynamic social, political, technical and environmental issues.

Policy No. 16, Landscape Planning, pg. 30, describes in more detail how the department intends to monitor compliance with the plan.

No. 38: Modifying the Forest Resource Plan

- ▼ **The department will seek permission from the Board of Natural Resources to modify certain portions of the Forest Resource Plan if changes in law, scientific practice, major public attitudes or new management directions require a different course of action not compatible with the policies contained in the plan.**

Discussion

The department intends to present proposed policy changes and supporting information to the Board of Natural Resources if basic policies in the plan should be modified or replaced. State law requires the board to establish policies for the department to ensure that development and use of state forest lands are consistent with applicable laws.

Because the Forest Resource Plan will outline basic department policy, the Board of Natural Resources must approve the document and any subsequent modifications. Any substantial modifications to the Forest Resource Plan must therefore be approved by the board.

No. 39: Consistency

- ▼ **The department will review its other management and policy plans and will compare those with the Forest Resource Plan. Where policies overlap and where there is apparent conflict in direction, the department will determine precedence and suggest changes to the Board of Natural Resources for resolving these differences.**

Discussion

This policy commits the department to identify and eliminate policy conflicts and to provide consistency between the Forest Resource Plan and existing department documents.

The department will solicit comments from the public and agencies before changing existing department plans or making a decision to change the Forest Resource Plan. Specifically, the department will attempt to contact the original participants who reviewed prior plans and solicit their comments to ensure that the public is fully informed about the policies adopted in the Forest Resource Plan. Other interested parties will also be invited to comment.

No. 40: Research

- ▼ The department will conduct applied research to monitor and evaluate silvicultural activities, test current practices and, where appropriate, initiate a process for change. The research will focus on issues relating to protection and conservation as well as forest production.

Discussion

The department intends to practice state-of-the-art forest resource management and react quickly to changes in technology and economics. As new methods of forestry are developed and tested, the department will consider and, where appropriate, will change its policies, procedures and practices. The department will conduct and support applied research to increase the value of products from state forest land. It will also work to solve major protection and conservation issues.

The emphasis of research will be of a practical nature. The department will focus its efforts on increasing its effectiveness as a manager of state forest lands. This research is not limited to specific management techniques (for example, analyzing wildlife habitat requirements or reviewing silvicultural practices) but will include planning tools and computer applications.

To accomplish these tasks, the department will use professionals in the fields of forestry, economics, fisheries, soils, road engineering, hydrology, logging systems, wildlife management, public relations and other areas.

